Construction of Godown for FCI

2491. SHRI R.T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has allowed private and Government agencies in States and Union Territories to construct godowns for the use of FCI;

(b) if so, the number of such godowns constructed during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that FCI has hired private godowns instead of using the godowns constructed by private and Government agencies; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that private and Government agency contractors are yet to receive huge amount of arrears due from FCI and if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A satement showing State-wise and agency-wise breakdown of the storage capacity constructed by Food Corporation of India and public sector agencies on behalf of the Corporation during the last three years is attached [*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No. 97] No private party constructed godowns for the Corporations use during this period.

(c) The Corporation hires storage capacity constructed by private parties-public sector agencies for its use. However, when additional storage capacity is required or after the expiry of the guarantee period if the terms and conditions offered by these parties are not suitable or operational considerations come in the way, the Corporation hires storage capacity from other parties.

(d) No, Sir.

Irregularities in quality control provisions of ISI

2492. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Special Committee of I. S. I. on 18-8-86 has concluded that the Thin Walled Mild Steel Tubes (LGS Pipes), if used for any purpose other than Sprinkler Irrigation Equipment would be covered under Quality Control Order 1978, whereas another Committee of ISI has concluded on 5.9.1986 that these pipes can be used for other purposes also;

(b) if so, whether the opinion dated 5th September, 1986, as aforesaid, is in violation of Quality Control Order 1978 even of recommending temporary use of these pipes for other purposes and in contradiction of the findings of the Special Committee dated 18-8-1986; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above is in the affirmative, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to rectify the aforesaid irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) In the meeting held in the Indian Standards Institution, New Delhi on 18-8-86, it was decided, *inter alia*, that the suitability of thinwalled mild steel tubes for purpose other than sprinkler irrigation should be considered. This issue was considered in a meetng of ISI's Divisional Council, viz. SMDC 22/AG on 5-9-1986 which come to the conclusion that these pipes could be used for certain specific purposes, where ease of transporation and quick assembling and dismantling are the prime requisites. No contradictory decisions have thus been taken.

(c) Does not arise.

Wheat and Paddy procurement in Punjab and Haryana

2493. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 277 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 1986 and state what are the reasons for F.C.I.'s share in procurement of paddy and wheat in Punjab and Haryana is less than that procured by the private traders during the current season?